What's on this tomb I cannot read ; the character
I'll take with wax :
Our captain hath in every figure skill;
An ag'd interpreter, though young in days:
Before proud Athens he's set down by this,
Whose fall the mark of his ambition is*
E$it.

SCENE V.

Before the Walls of Athens.

*Trumpets sound. Enter ALCIBIADES, and Forces**

ALCIB. Sound to this coward and lascivious town
Our terrible approach. _*A Parley sounded.*

to call on a beast to read the inscription, without assigning any reason for so extraordinary a requisition ;—then to talk of Timon's death and of his grave; and, at last, to inform the audience that he cannot read the inscription. Let me add, that a beast being as unable to read as the Soldier, it would be absurd to call on one for assistance ; whilst on the other hand, if a den or cave, or any rude heap of earth resembling a tomb, be found where " there does not live a man," it is manifest that it must have been formed by a beast.

A passage in King Lear also adds support to the emendation:

«««----------this hard *house,*
'* More hard than are the stones whereof 'tis *raised."*

MALONE,

It is evident, that the Soldier, when he first sees the heap of earth, does not know it to be a *tomb.* He concludes Timon must be dead, because he receives *no answer*. It is likewise evident, that when he utters the words *some beast,* &c. he has *not* seen the inscription. And Dr. Warburton's emendation is therefore, not only just and happy, but absolutely necessary. " What can this heap of earth be ? (says the Soldier;) Timon is certainly dead : some beast must have *erected* this, for here does not live a man to do it. Yes, he is dead, sure enough, *and this must be his grave,*
What is this writing upon it ? " RITSON. ,

The foregoing observations are acute in the extreme, and I have not scrupled to adopt the reading they recommend,

STEEVENS.